



U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program



U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2)

COL Jim Rice, AW2 Director

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Introduction to the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program

I Will Never Leave a



U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program



VISION

Wounded Warriors and their Families are self sufficient, contributing members of our communities; living and espousing the Warrior Ethos knowing our Army and Nation remembers...



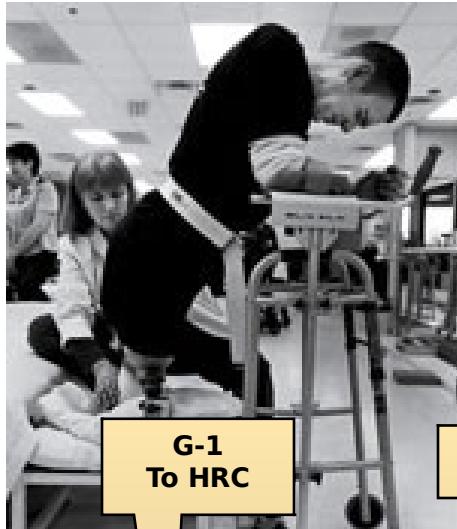
MISSION

We assist and advocate for our severely wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and their Families. We support and advise during medical treatment, rehabilitation and transition back into the Army or a civilian community. We cut through red tape; assist our Soldiers and their Families navigate federal, state and private benefit systems; and link them with selected financial, educational, employment, legal and medical resources. We serve as an advocate and change agent to implement lessons learned to adjust policy and increase the responsiveness and effectiveness of our medical and benefit system.

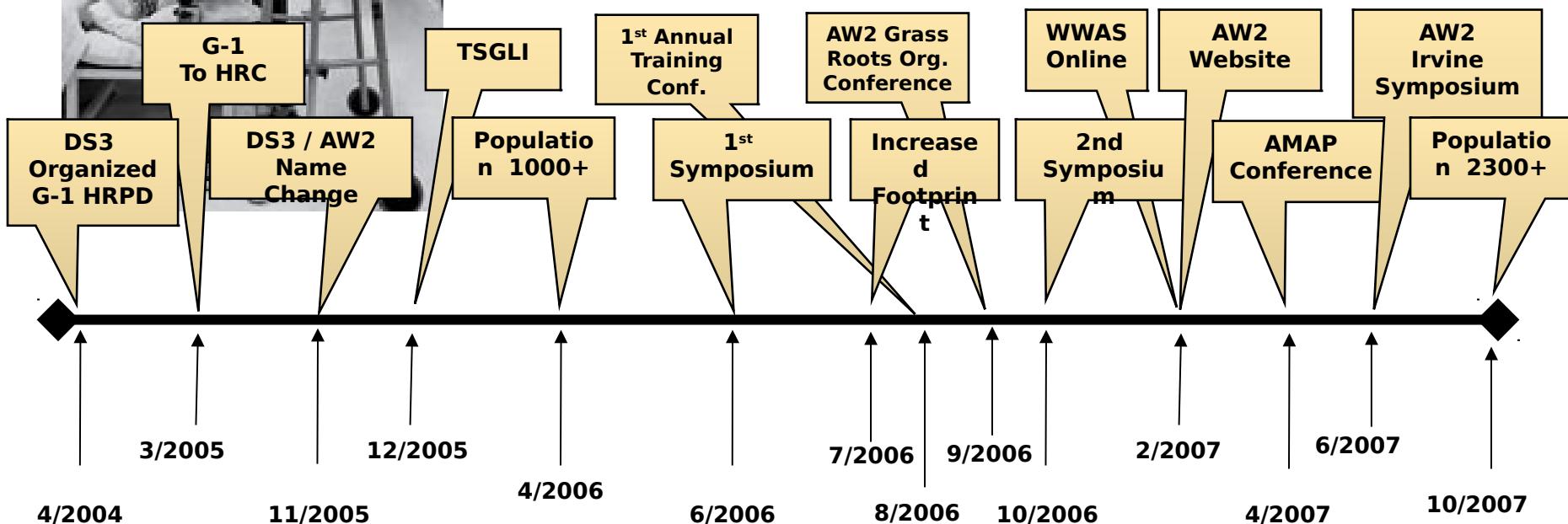
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On April 30, 2004 the Army introduced an initiative to enhance the care and support of severely Wounded Warriors and their families. This system of support guides them from evacuation through treatment, rehabilitation, return to duty or military retirement and transition into the civilian community.





U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program



To be considered an AW2 Soldier, a Soldier must:

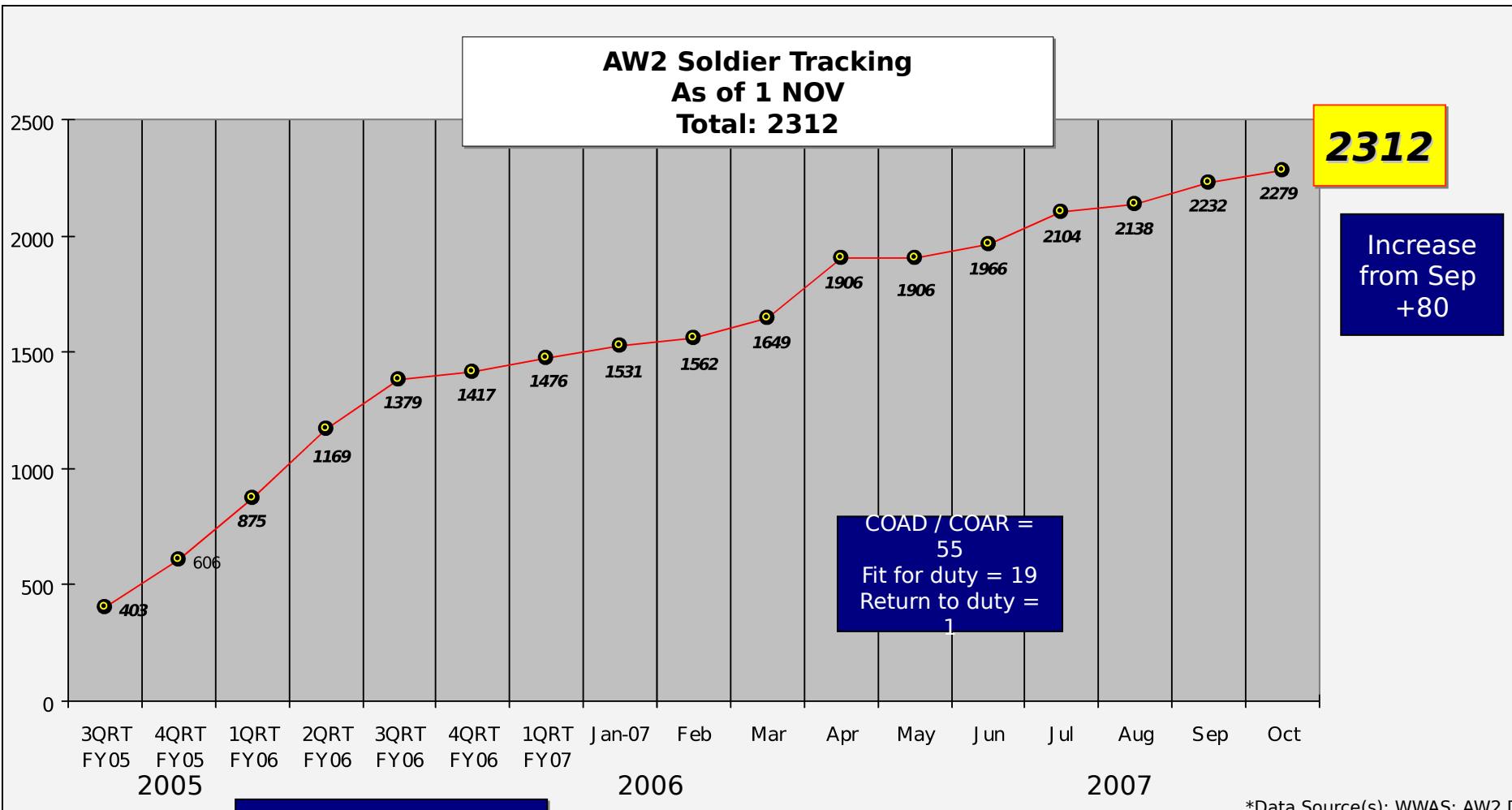
- Suffer from injuries or illness incurred after 10 September 2001 in support of the Global War On Terrorism
- Receive or expected to receive a 30% rating for one or more injuries rated by the Physical Disability Evaluation system in categories such as:

- ✓ Loss of Vision/Blindness
- ✓ Loss of Limb
- ✓ Spinal Cord Injury/Paralysis
- ✓ Permanent disfigurement
- ✓ Severe burns
- ✓ Traumatic Brain Injury
- ✓ Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- ✓ Fatal / Incurable Disease
- ✓ Any other condition requiring extensive hospitalizations or multiple surgeries





U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program

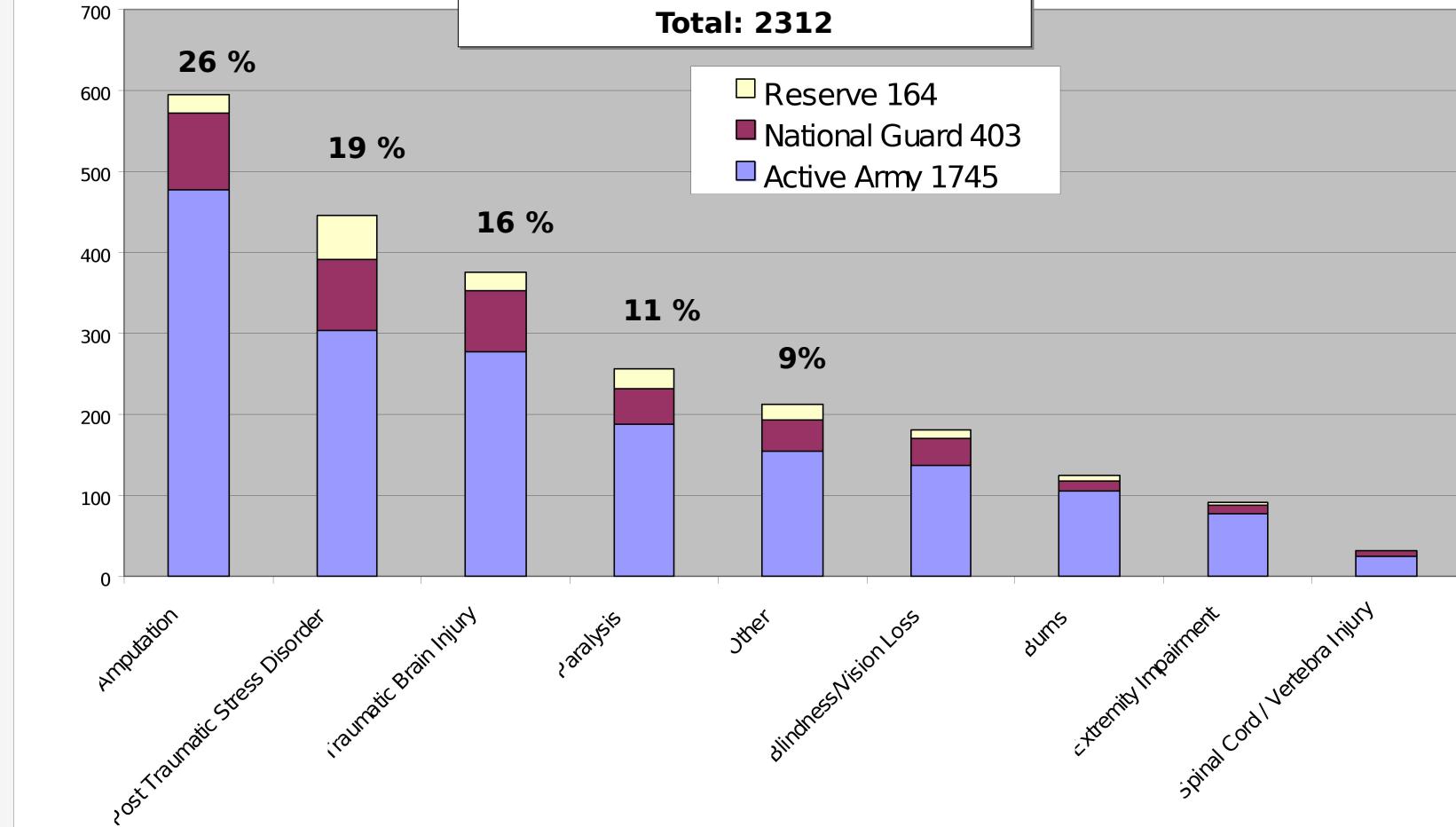


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AW2 Soldier Tracking
As of 1 NOV 07
Total: 2312

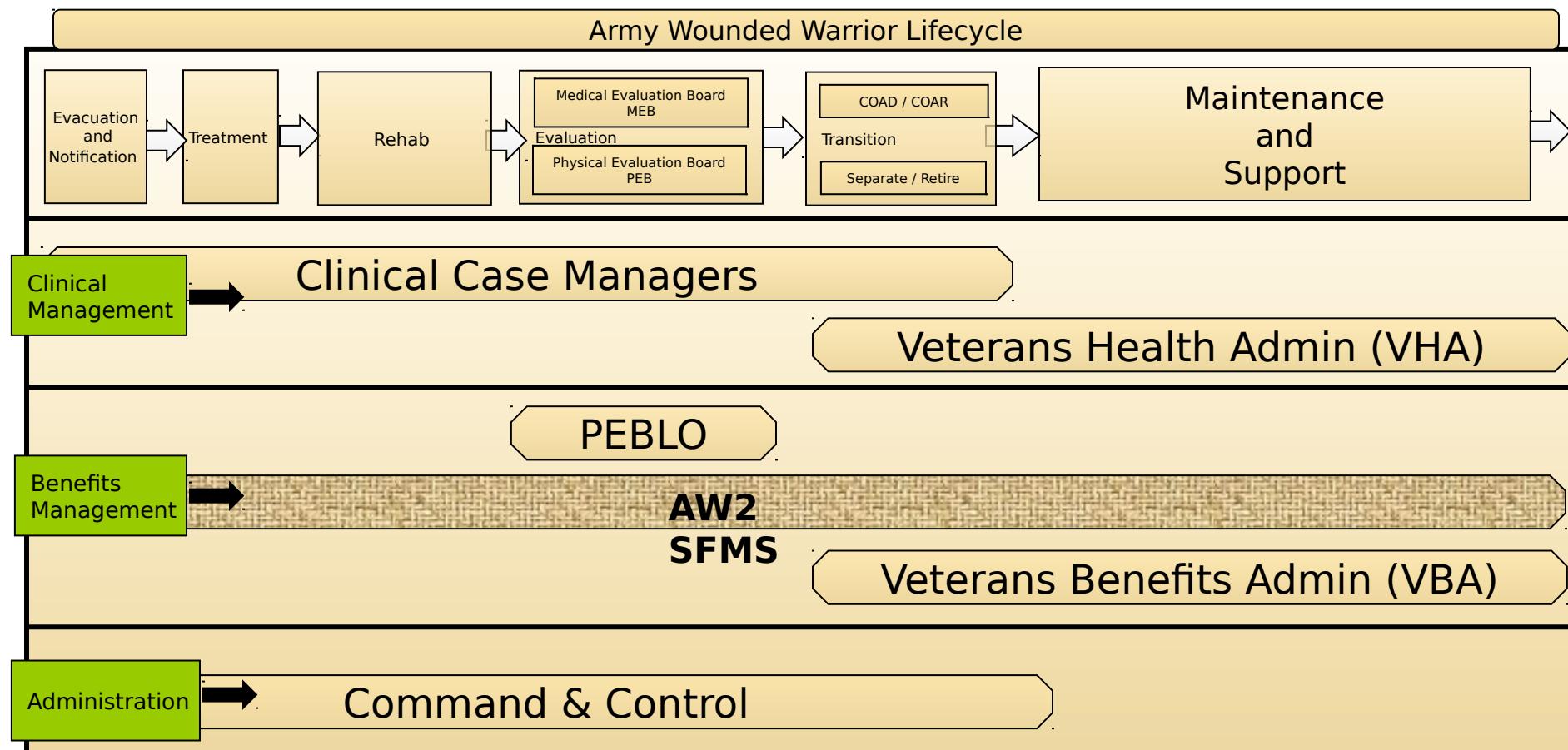


*Data Source(s): WWAS; AW2 Db

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Management of Wounded and Ill Soldiers





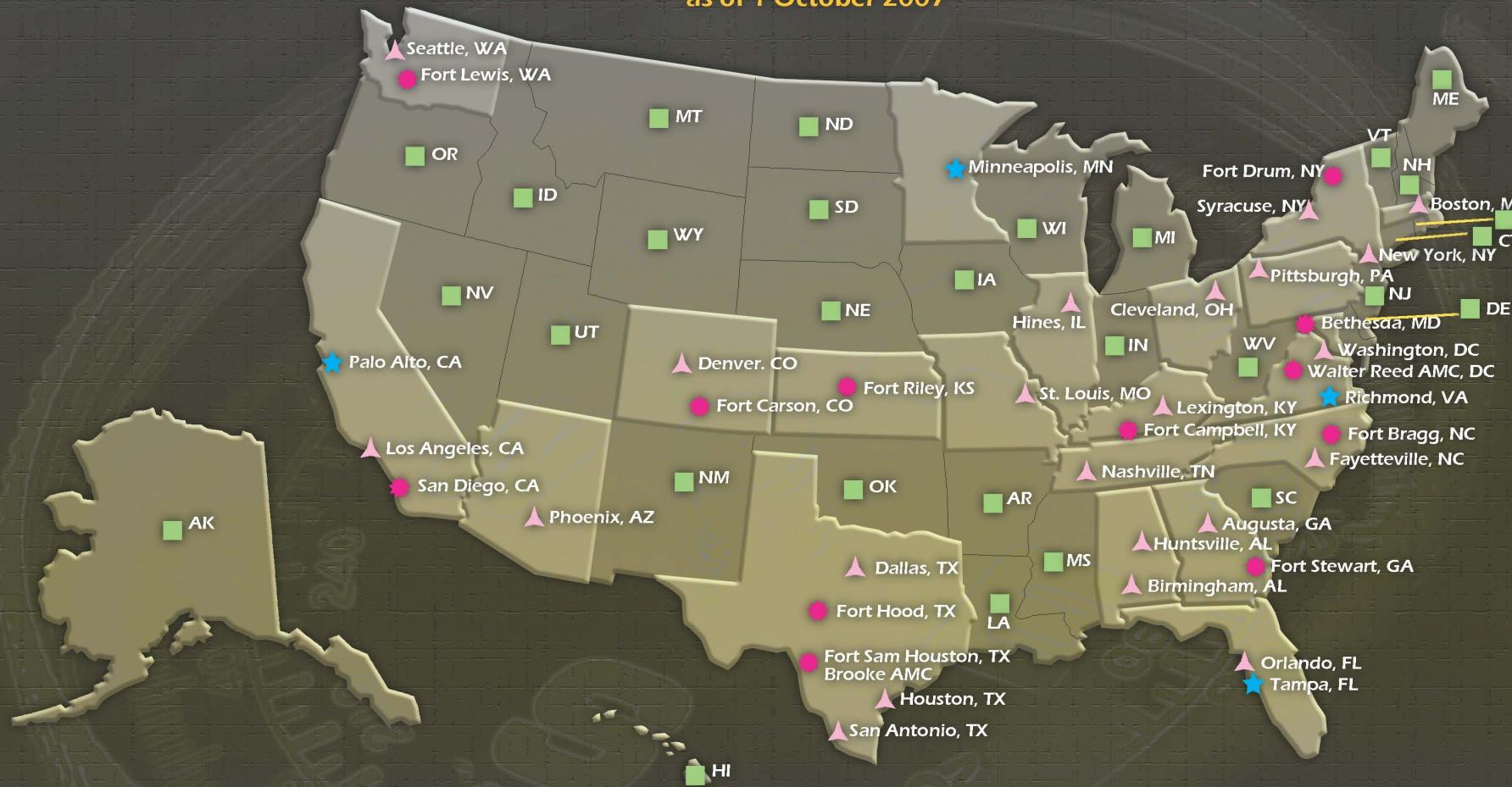
U.S.ARMY

U.S. ARMY WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM (AW2)



AW2 Soldier Family Management Specialist Locations

as of 1 October 2007



Phone: 1 800 237 1336
www.aw2.army.mil
aw2@conus.army.mil

Key

- ★ VA Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center
- ▲ VA Polytrauma Network Site
- Military Installation/
Medical Treatment Facility
- SFMS Located at AW2 HQ

"I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE"



U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program



AW2 Staff

Soldier Family Management Specialists

Our SFMSs are Life Coaches and Personal Assistants for Soldiers and their Families

- ✓ Empowering them to make informed and relevant decisions
- ✓ Helping them develop recovery and life goals
- ✓ Coordinating and facilitating support services and information

Operations and Policy

- ✓ Call Center provides contact, referral and information
- ✓ VA, Finance, Military Benefits and Awards, Medical, Operations and Employment Specialists
- ✓ Army Regulation revision and updating to better reflect actions affecting the seriously injured community
- ✓ Program review and analysis
- ✓ Strategic Communications - public relations, strategic partnerships and website management



U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program

A Typical Day for a SFMS

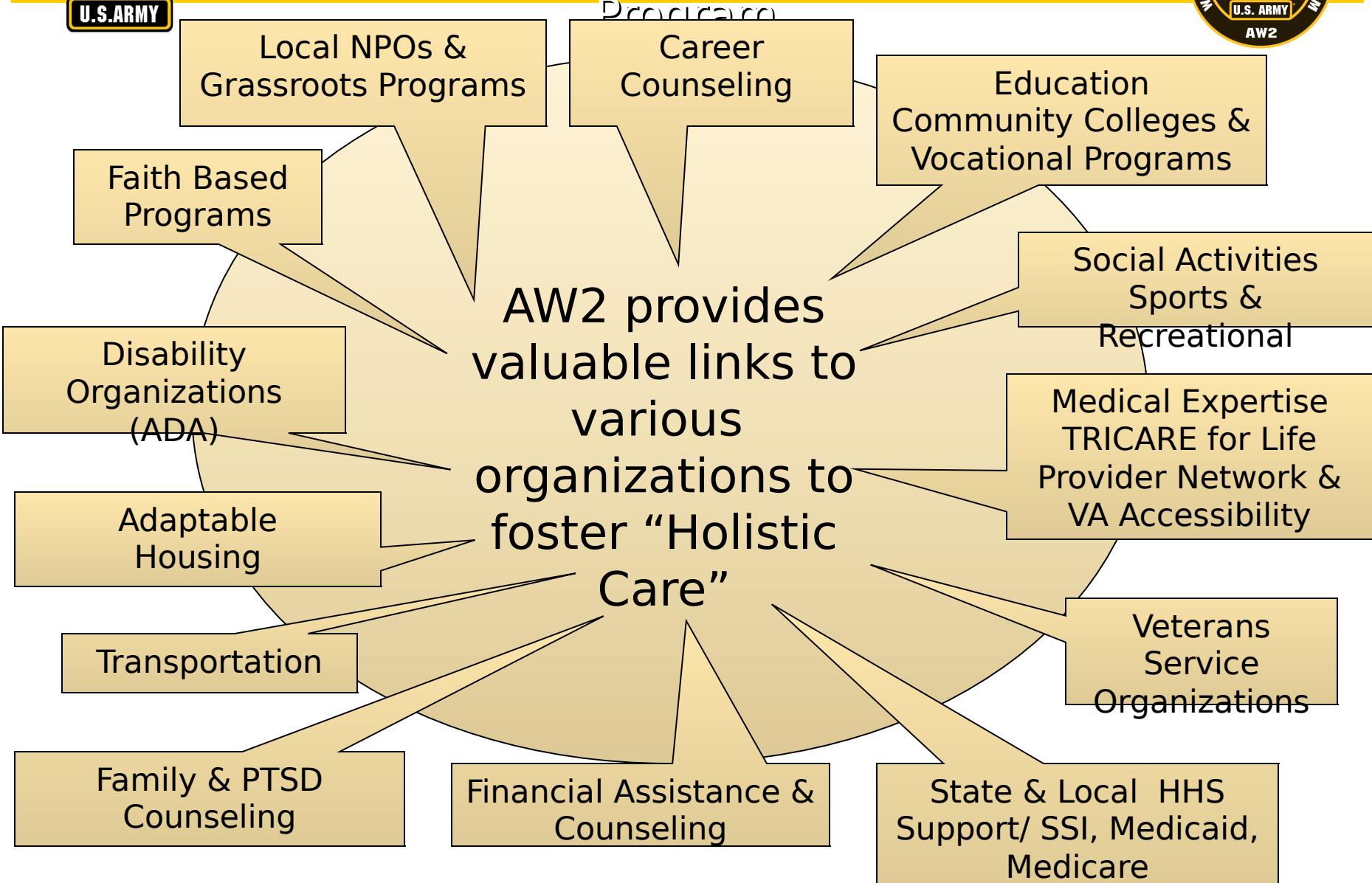
- Provides individualized support to severely injured Soldiers and their Families, and champions change to business processes, policy and law.
- Navigates the maze of federal and state benefits and private initiatives.
- AW2 Soldier Family Management Specialists are located at MEDCENs, VA Medical Centers & Army installations with concentrations of AW2 Soldiers.
- A typical day in AW2
 - ✓ Facilitate a TSGLI application
 - ✓ Educate employers
 - ✓ Coordinate 5-year active duty career plans
 - ✓ Provide side-by-side comparisons of medical retirement pay and VA disability compensation
 - ✓ Negotiate transition amongst federal agencies
 - ✓ Prepare Families for fiduciary responsibility over their Soldier's pay
 - ✓ Coordinate financial counseling
 - ✓ Coordinate an award ceremony
 - ✓ Assisting Soldier or Family member citizenship
 - ✓ Manage non-clinical transition between Army and VA
 - ✓ Assist with employment / education opportunities
- SFMSs do not:
 - ✓ Provide command and control of Soldiers
 - ✓ Provide services offered by the Soldier Family Assistance Center

AW2 SFMSs are there to listen, hold a hand, whatever it takes.

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U.S. Army Wounded Warrior





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AW2 Links Soldiers and Family Members to Valuable Federal Benefits

Health Care

- ✓ TRICARE
- ✓ VA Health Care
- ✓ Medicare/Medicaid

Retirement & Disability Compensation

- ✓ U.S. Army Retirement Pay
- ✓ VA Disability Compensation
- ✓ TSGLI
- ✓ CRSC
- ✓ SSI Disability Compensation

Transition Assistance

- ✓ Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP)
- ✓ VA Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP)
- ✓ VA Seamless Transition
- ✓ Unemployment Compensation

VA Adaptive Housing & Vehicle Assistance

- ✓ \$10,000 and \$50,000 grants for housing adaptation
- ✓ \$11,000 toward automobile
- ✓ Adaptive equipment, repair, replacement or reinstallation

VA Education & Training

- ✓ Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB)
- ✓ VA Educational Assistance to spouses and children of permanently and totally disabled veterans

VA Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment

- ✓ Evaluation of talents, skills and interests
- ✓ Resume and work readiness assistance
- ✓ Help finding and keeping a job
- ✓ Vocational counseling and planning
- ✓ On-the-job training and work-experience programs
- ✓ Training – Certificate, two, or four-year college or technical programs
- ✓ Supportive rehabilitation services and counseling

Department of Labor (DOL)

- ✓ REALifelines
- ✓ Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOP)
- ✓ Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER)



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AW2 Accomplishments

- ✓ Expanded from 2 locations to 22 locations across the USA
- ✓ Quadrupled SFMS staff to cover nearly all military and VA medical facilities
- ✓ Audited over 1345 AW2 Soldier financial records
- ✓ Stood up TSGLI and transferred to CRSC
- ✓ Conducted 3 AW2 symposiums
- ✓ Developed benefits calculator
- ✓ Launched AW2 website
- ✓ Brought on 66 COAD/COAR and fit-for-duty Soldiers, provided each with personalized 5-year career plan
- ✓ Participated in AMAP staff assistance visits to WTUs and SFMSs for education on AW2 mission and roles
- ✓ Developed WWAS database for direct access to a variety of data sources
- ✓ Initiated first AW2 working group at Army Family Action Plan Conference
- ✓ Collaborative employment program with National Organization on Disability
- ✓ AW2 interviewed by, or referenced in, over 14 publications
- ✓ Member of the Army's **Task Force Never Leave a**



U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program



Continuation of Severely Injured Soldiers on Active Duty (COAD/COAR)

- Keeps our severely Wounded Warriors in the fight
- Our Army retains invaluable expertise and experience now and in the future
- Eligibility Criteria- AR 635-40, chap 6, disability is a result of combat or terrorism primarily
- Considerations- Physicians' recommendations
- Disapproval Authority for AW2 Soldiers is the DCS G-1

Process

- ✓ Identify interested AW2 Soldiers prior to MEB/PEB
- ✓ Development of 5 year “Career Map”
- ✓ Comprehensive counseling to ensure Soldiers understand their options and can visualize their future in the force
- ✓ The approval Memorandum and 5 year plan is sent to the gaining unit from HRC



U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program

Web Based Assistance and Information

MyArmyBenefits

Home **My Benefits** **Benefit Facts** **by Category** **by Component** **by Life Event** **by State/Territory** **by Index** **Benefit Resources** **Benefit News**

Army Wounded Warrior Assistance **Casualty and Survivor Assistance**

Welcome to MyArmyBenefits

This is your official Army benefits resource for the Regular Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, family members and retirees. MyArmyBenefits is your one-stop shop for the latest, most-up-to-date benefits information.

Browse through benefits and entitlements including those provided by the states and territories. Discover your eligibility, research the details of your benefits and find locations where benefits services are provided. If you still have questions, please contact us.

Active duty ACO account holders who log into the *My Benefits* section can produce personalized reports that use their DEERS data to calculate survivor, education and retirement benefits, annuities and lump-sum payments. Add investments, insurance and SGLI or use the "what if" capability to see the impacts of marriage, having children or retiring at a projected date and rank to complete your financial picture.

New features serving the Army Wounded Warrior (AW2) Program and Casualty and Survivor Assistance will be rolled out in the next few months.

Recent Benefit News

8/24/2007 [America Supports You: American Spirit Makes Difference for Troops](#)
WASHINGTON, Aug. 24, 2007 — With traditional "American Spirit" at the heart of its mission, one California group is working to make a difference in the lives of wounded servicemembers and their families.

8/24/2007 [Program Gives Chance 'A Chance'](#)
HEIDELBERG, Germany - An Army program to provide free, qualified care for exceptional family members has just become even better, and might mean a little boy named Chance learns to communicate with the world.

8/24/2007 [BAMC Steps Up Care for Warriors in Transition, Families](#)
FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas (Army News Service, Aug. 23, 2007) - Since June, Brooke Army Medical Center has implemented a series of sweeping changes designed to improve the quality of care for Soldiers in transition and their families.

8/24/2007 [Become a Special Agent, Get \\$20K](#)
FORT BELVOIR, Va. (Army News Service, Aug. 22, 2007) - A \$20,000 lump-sum Critical Skills Accession Bonus is being offered to active-duty enlisted Soldiers who complete the Criminal Investigation Command Special Agent Warrant Officer Basic Course by Sept. 30, 2008.

8/24/2007 [Referral Bonus Program Draws 5,800 New Soldiers](#)
WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Aug. 22, 2007) - Under the Army's Referral Bonus Program, sponsors have referred 31,000 recruits resulting in 6,800 contracts as of early August, according to officials at the U.S. Army Recruiting Command in Fort Knox, Ky.

8/21/2007 [\\$20,000 Bonus for Recruits Who Report Before 30 September](#)
The U.S. Army's Recruiting Command announced recently a \$20,000 "quick-ship" bonus for aspiring recruits. The bonus

Interactive web-enabled Benefits Calculator For Active Component, Reserve Component, National Guard

Side-by-side comparisons of Active Duty vs. Medical Retirement pay vs. VA Disability Compensation

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"I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE."

Mission **Veteran Resources** **Job Board** **Finance** **Medical** **AKO** **CAP** **TSGLI**

AW2 Top Stories

Back from despair, in her words, when her husband was hurt in Iraq, Nancy Kules found healing in sharing their pain online
Bowie, Md. — WITH her husband in a coma, unable to breathe on his own, Nancy Kules sat down at a computer and began to type. PRAY, PRAY, PRAY, she wrote. Read the whole story here... [\(read more\)](#)

Employers looking to hire workers with strong work ethic, leadership skills and diverse backgrounds are increasingly turning to a select group of recruits: veterans
USA Today February 18, 2007 Pg. 16 More Employers Recruit The Military Work Ethic Companies like vets' background, leadership By Barbara Hagenbaugh, USA Today WASHINGTON - Employers looking to hire workers with strong work ethic, leadership skills... [\(read more\)](#)

America Supports You: Blind War Veteran Enjoys View from the Top
By John J. Krutz, USA Today, Special to The Washington Times
STERLING, Va., Feb. 5, 2007 — At the Sport Rock Indoor Climbing Center here, a sign warns that climbing can cause serious injury. If Army Capt. Scott Smiley could see the cautionary sign, he would... [\(read more\)](#)

Academic Scholarship for Military Spouses
The National Military Family Association is accepting

AW2 Images

"I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE."

Army Newswatch Podcasts

Army Newswatch - Episodes 07-03
Stories include: Potosi Visit, Balkaria Clinic, boat assault, Around the Army, Afghanistan Strategy, Aerial Gunnery, A

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Sports

Falling fast? Florida loses to Tennessee
Chris Lofton scored 21 points, and Tennessee pulled away from No. 5 Florida in the first half and held on for an 86-76 victory Tuesday night.

Vols' newest cheerleader? Pat Summitt
Pat Summitt wore an orange cheerleader uniform, sang "Rocky Top" and stood top of a human pyramid to show her support of the Tennessee men's basketball team Tuesday night.

Bush honors Heat, but with mixed emotions

AW2 website www.aw2.army.mil

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